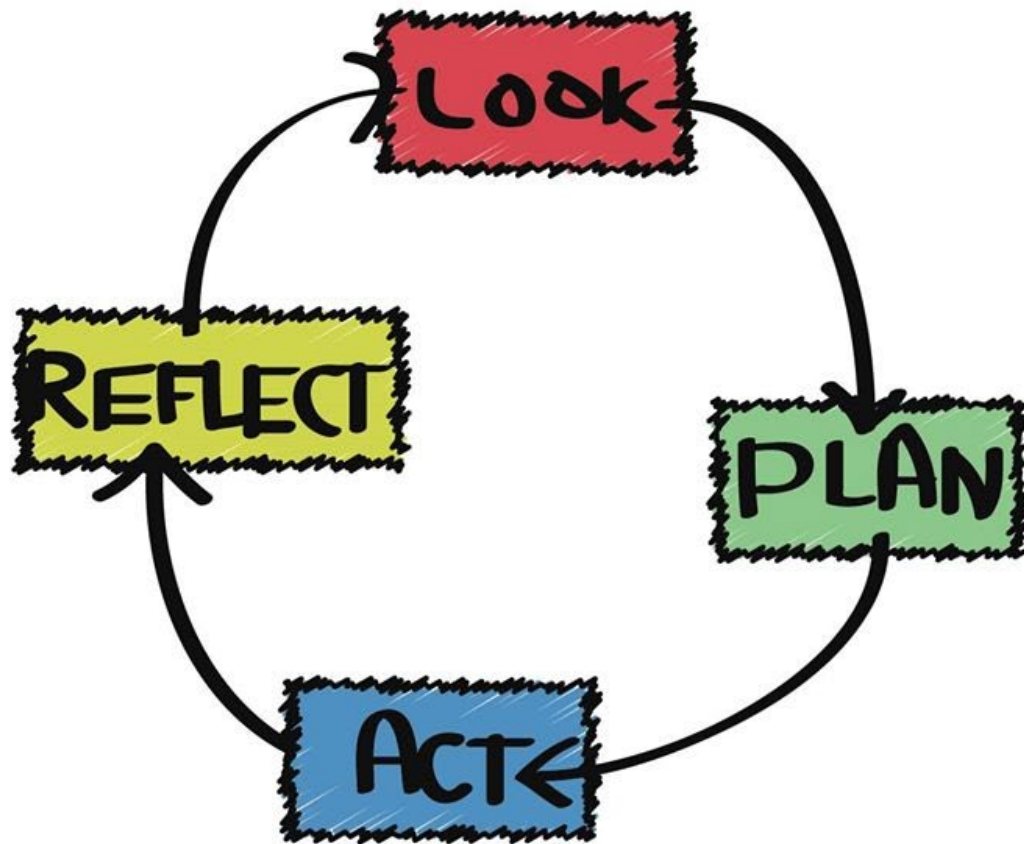




Anna Francis, *Brownfield Ikebana*, 2012

Director at AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent and Associate Professor of Fine Art and Social Practice at Staffordshire University



ACTION RESEARCH PROCESS



Bruegel's *Landscape with The Fall of Icarus*, 1555
Described in Adam Chodzko's essay *Out of Place*, 2000



A lot of my work is located in the city where I live, but always in relation to other places:
 City Tour Guide - 2009-10 – responding to a gap – a City with no tour guide



How To Make a Brownfield Ikebana Works Instruction:

Please read to ensure you understand your responsibilities when using the Artist's Kit:

SHEET NUMBER: 1

What you need to know:

1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1 This works instruction (WI) covers the selection of site and flowers, and the use of equipment when making a Brownfield Ikebana.

1.2 The purpose of this WI is to ensure that the processes described are carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible, while bearing in mind certain health and safety guidance measures. Anna Francis takes no responsibility for any erroneous use.

2. SELECTION AND ASSEMBLY:



2.1 Assemble your equipment for creating a Brownfield Ikebana. You will need; secateurs, a selection of kenzan, gloves to protect against thorns and a tray containing wet newspaper.



2.2 Select your site carefully; a site which has been between demolition and development for over 12 months is best, as this allows for maximum errant growth.



2.3 Walk the site thoroughly to get a good idea of the diversity of plants which have appeared.



2.4 Seek out the vessels which will make beautiful or surprising combinations for your ikebana.



2.5 You may wish to partner your vessel with a support salvaged from the site: this could be fabric or other chunkier materials.



2.6 Select your flowers carefully, considering what will work in the space that they are intended for, but also considering Shin, Soe and Hikae see 2.9.



2.7 As soon as you have cut your plants, wrap them in the wet newspaper to ensure they remain fresh.



2.8 Take your vessel, and select a kenzan which will be heavy enough to support your plants, while also fitting into the vase well.



2.9 This ikebana variation comprises Shin (Heaven) Soe (Man) and Hikae (Earth). Shin = width + height of vessel + 100%. Soe should be 75% of Shin, and Hikae should be 50%.



2.10 Imagine a line coming from 12 o'clock from the kenzan : Shin should be placed into the Kenzan at between 0 and 5 degrees from that line, Soe at between 15 and 45 degrees and hikae at between 50 and 75.



2.11 The arrangement can be assembled outside the vessel and then added, or alternatively built into the vessel. Remember that when building, you are the sun, and therefore the flowers should grow towards you.



2.12 Any additions to the main lines are called Jushi or supplementaries, and should not outflank the stem they support. Set the Brownfield Ikebana on the support.





Brownfield Ikebana created by workshop participants.

Greyhound Track, 2015





The Spode Rose Garden





2013 - Mark out the triangle







This section of the garden is based around the blue pattern theme of the pottery which the Spode factory produced. This section has been chosen as the blue theme is already here, and the additional furniture will be of an oriental style to enhance the setting of the blue pattern.



Buxus sempervirens - Japanese style box shrub



Prunus briaris - Japanese style plant, good for pollination and attracting bees



Garden Benches - placed along the back section of the garden

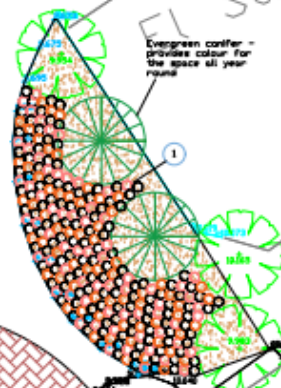


The Spode China Rose will be retained in the garden

Artisan's Sculpture From Airspace Gallery



Water Feature - creates background noise as requested



Rose Bed - restores the garden's original purpose as a rose garden, gives colour to the garden, and attracts wildlife

Evergreen conifer - provides colour for the space all year round

Pink bench with seating for communal sitting - painted to reflect the pottery made at the Spode factory

Edible Plants growing bed - provides food and opportunity for gardeners to grow crops

Informative signs are placed adjacent to the wall - these signs will inform visitors of the history of Spode, the history of the rose garden, and the aims of the garden restoration project



Oriental Wooden Garden Bridge - provides access to seating and an interest point for visitors to view



24

Regular gardening events





Regular community events:
The Sunflower Party to celebrate the
longest day of the year



Sun up to sun down raku firing



RHS Tatton Blooming Border 2017:
Spreading the word about the work and
the methods outside of the city



The role of the artist in society:

Artist as Citizen – What if I don't go home at the end of the day? What if I work where I live?



* MADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE *

COMMUNITY
MAKER

* ENGLAND *



Starting with basic resources - Community Maker 2015: A series of workshops in a tent, where we meet, eat and make



A chance to use the green space and meet the neighbours





Making connections locally, but also bridging gaps between community and service providers

Understanding the needs:
We need a space!



FOUR WEEKS
OF ACTIVITY
IN THE OLD
PUB. SUITABLE
FOR FAMILIES

OPEN
DAILY
AUGUST 8-
SEPTEMBER
3RD
FREE

THE
PORTLAND
~INN~
PROJECT

IS DELIVERED BY...

MADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE
PORTLAND STREET
COMMUNITY GROUP

COMMUNITY
MAKER
ENGLAND

the
OASIS
SOCIAL CLUB

appetite

airspacegallery

community
matters
Connecting Communities

British
Ceramics
Biennial

GET
INVOLVED

THE
PORTLAND
INN
PROJECT

PORTLAND ST.
STOKE ON TRENT

ST1 5HZ

THE
PORTLAND
~INN~
PROJECT

WHAT IS IT?

THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT IS A
CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT FOR A
COMMUNITY IN STOKE-ON-TRENT.
THE COUNCIL HAVE OFFERED THIS DISUSED
PUB TO BE USED AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE.
THROUGH THIS PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME,
WE WANT TO FIND OUT:
• WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE RUN
FROM THIS SPACE IN THE LONG TERM?
• IS THIS WHAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WANT?
• HOW CAN WE RUN THE SPACE PERMANENTLY?
• WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

ACTIVITIES
& DANCING

CAKES &
CRECHE

GARDENING

COMMUNITY
MAKER
WORKSHOPS

PERFORMING
+ BINGO
with
THE OASIS
SOCIAL CLUB

DROP
INS
&
MORE
WORKSHOPS

SPORTS

LIBRARY

PROGRAMME OVERLEAF



Clay workshops: bring a plate – creating a prototype table setting, from the plates found in the community



Aerobics, bingo, tae kwondo, cooking, library sessions, coffee mornings, hula hooping, business development session, karaoke, sign writing, pool tournament, table tennis tournament, engraving, printing...



Community Celebration Event: Future of the Pub Photoshoot



In 2017 – we were back on the green space in a tent....

The 4 week programme saw a weekly workshop to create a set of plates:

Making the plates with moulds, then glazing them and finally putting the lithographs on





An important moment: the community organised an event, and asked us to help....Bonfire night 2017

News

Opinion

Sport

Culture

Lifestyle

More ▾



Made in Stoke-on-Trent: Episode 2

£1 For a House

Cities is supported by



Ravaged by years of cuts, the Portland street estate started selling

houses for just £1. But what started as a desperate bid to save

🕒 January 2018

The project was used as a case study by the Local Government Association on how councils can work with communities via arts projects.

The project and the area were the subject of a Guardian film.

**THIS IS
YOUR SPACE
WE NEED
YOUR INPUT**

**THE PORTLAND
INN PROJECT
SUMMER
PROGRAMME
STARTS AUGUST 6**

**ARTISTS &
DESIGNERS
RESIDENCY**

**GET
INVOLVED**

**RESIDENTS
LOCAL SERVICES
ARTISTS
ARCHITECTS
WORKING
TOGETHER**

**DESIGN
BUILD
& MAKE
FOR OUR
FUTURE
BUILDING**

**RE
SIDE
NTIAL
FLAT**



**WORK-
SHOP**

**THIS IS OUR
BUILDING
WHAT DO WE WANT?**

SUPPORTED BY :

airspacegaller

**PORTLAND STREET
COMMUNITY GALLERY**

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**Aziz Foundation Grants
for Individual Artists**

**my community
matters**

**City of
Stoke-on-Trent**

appetite

**LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS
OF THE PROGRAMME**

airspacegallery

THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT

October 26 to
November 3, 2018

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported through public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**


City of
Stoke-on-Trent

THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT

26 October to 3 November 2018
Public Preview 26 October 4pm-8pm

The Portland Inn Project is a creative one project in partnership with The Portland Street Community Group, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Airspace Gallery and My Community Homes for a community in Stoke-on-Trent, where several properties were sold for £1, with the view of changing the fortunes of the area.

Over the last 4 years, artists Anna Francis and Rebecca Denton have built the project to a point where local and national attention has been attracted for its wonderful creativity and its aims. Airspace Gallery is pleased to host this special presentation exhibition of works and activities in the project to date, including a new installation in the Portland Inn, and tickets towards the community coming up to celebrate what has already happened and start the planning for what's next.

The Artists

Anna Francis

Anna Francis is an artist and researcher whose practice aims to rebuild city resources through participatory art interventions. The creative situations for herself, the public and other artists to explore places differently often experimenting with leading and instructing by creating materials, like a leading pulled from. In recent years the interventions which Anna has worked on include the city of Stoke-on-Trent, and one on an artistic concept process to receive the region's materials, plus regional art. She aims to change the way the site is viewed, and potentially make changes, which can be temporary and sustainable.

The Project has recently secured the most transfer of a disused pub to the community, to be developed into a creative community building. Drawing on examples of successful, creative, and community-led development projects from across the UK, the approach to develop the area is a mix of new community to design and deliver the future of this community asset, through an engaging public art programme.

While the project partners work in the background to secure the funds needed to regenerate the building, there is also a regular programme to involve the community in the existing project.

During the Summer 2018, The Portland Inn Project worked with Architects Burovodka, who recently delivered the Souths Portland or former Architects Burovodka. burovodka.co.uk has to build a temporary space with the community, and then to deliver a summer-long programme of activity which welcomed the local in front of the pub building for community use, enriched the area with high quality events and activities and involved the community in the next stages of the development project.

This exhibition documents the development of the Portland Inn Project to date and show some how the ground breaking project has:

- engaged local people to creative decision making about their area, and about the

future of the pub, via creative participatory methods, with a focus on local facilities and community development.

• delivered a strong programme of artistic and cultural activity which activates the area, and can be accessed by local families and others

- engaged local stakeholders, and key personnel in the development of the project in shaping the future of the pub.
- Produced new products to be developed alongside the building, for the social enterprise aspect of the project.
- Secured the most transfer of the Pub Building for the community.

Within the exhibition there will be hands-on workshops, a special 'Portland Social' Curry and Chai night and a chance to hear from artists Anna Francis and Rebecca Denton, as they deliver on their talk series about the project. The exhibition includes the proposed architectural plans for the Portland Inn, developed by architect Gordon Egbo, in collaboration with the community of Portland Street.

The Portland Inn Project Events

Saturday 27th October
12-3pm
Portland St Community Lunch
(Invited Guests)

2-4pm
Pigeon Factory Drop In
Portland St workshop
(ALL WELCOME)

Saturday 3rd November
5-6pm
Portland Social:
Chai and Curry Night.

The project is funded by Arts Council England and the Stoke City Council Community Investment Fund, with individual artist support funding from The Arts Foundation.

Visit the project blog at:
www.theportlandproject.tumblr.com/
For more information please contact:
Anna Francis, anna@airspacegallery.org



airspacegallery

AirSpace Gallery is a collaborative, artist-led project in Stoke-on-Trent, providing creative opportunities, studio and exhibiting space and support for artists and curators. Currently, particularly concerned with issues surrounding collaborative partnership working and a relational network with its location and the socio-political landscape, AirSpace Gallery brings critical, high-quality contemporary art to the region through a dynamic and evolving programme of exhibitions, residencies and public realm activities.

Visit AirSpace Gallery
4 Broad Street
City Centre
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 4LL
Open during exhibitions
Thursday to Saturday
11.00am to 5.00pm
Tuesday and Wednesdays by appointment
info@airspacegallery.org
+44(0)1829 20 1221


Stoke-on-Trent City Council


LOTTERY FUNDED





Summer 2018 – Temporary Workshop, built with the Community



Raising The Roof, 2018: Ceramics workshops, architecture school, kids café, boxing, fashion, Glass making, gardening, film club, radio workshop, drawing... involving





Manifesto

Modes of Practice

1. *Be Active: Support Each-other.*
2. *Be Active: Be an Activist.*
3. *Be Active: Be an Artist.*
4. *Value Yourself, Your Time and Your Skills.*
5. *Share Your Knowledge and Resources.*
6. *Focus, Strategise and Plan.*
7. *Be Critical - Be Fair.*
8. *Know Your Rights.*

A guide for artists and creative practitioners in the age of austerity.



<http://airspacegallery.org/>

<http://annafrancis.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://theportlandinnproject.tumblr.com/>